

Docket 58004
Serial No. 10/668,859

PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (currently amended) A rake stripper for cleaning debris from a rake having a
2 handle and a plurality of tines, the stripper comprising:

3 a cleaning member presenting a width, moveable between a first, retracted position and a
4 second, extended position, the cleaning member comprising:

5 a pair of cleaning elements, each element having a distal end wherein the distal
6 ends define the width of the cleaning member, and

7 an adjustment means for adjusting the width of the member, the adjustment
8 means including a bracket coupled with the cleaning elements and
9 presenting a longitudinal axis for selective positioning of the distal ends
10 along a line generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bracket; and

11 a biasing means for biasing the cleaning member toward the retracted position; and

12 wherein the bracket and cleaning elements of the cleaning member are formed from a

13 unitary structure, and the distal ends of the cleaning elements include a plurality of

14 break away tabs as an adjustment means for adjusting the width of the cleaning

15 member.

1 2. (original) The rake stripper as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bracket defines a
2 hollow interior and includes opposed, open ends of the bracket.

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1 3. (original) The rake stripper as set forth in claim 2, wherein one of the cleaning
2 elements is telescopically received in each of the ends.

1 4. (original) The rake stripper as set forth in claim 3, wherein the bracket presents an
2 upper face and a plurality of adjustment holes defined through the upper face of the bracket and
3 in communication with the bracket interior.

1 5. (original) The rake stripper as set forth in claim 4, wherein each of the cleaning
2 elements presents a recess and includes a locking button positioned in the recess.

1 6. (original) The rake stripper as set forth in claim 5, wherein each of the buttons
2 defines an outer circumference, and the adjustment holes each define an inner circumference that
3 is greater than the outer circumference of the buttons.

1 7. (original) The rake as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biasing means includes a
2 biasing member having a unitary cantilevered spring and a support coupled with the bracket.

1 8. (original) The rake stripper as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bracket includes a
2 pair of bracket halves clamped about the cleaning elements adjacent to the distal ends thereof.

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1 9. (original) The rake stripper as set forth in claim 8, wherein the cleaning elements
2 are constructed from generally flexible material having a memory and present proximal ends.

1 10. (original) The rake stripper as set forth in claim 9, wherein the biasing means for
2 biasing the cleaning member toward the retracted position includes a rake handle clamp in which
3 the proximal ends of the cleaning elements are received.

1 11. (canceled)

1 Claims 12-18 (canceled)

1 19. (currently amended) A rake stripper for cleaning debris from a rake having a
2 handle and a plurality of tines, the stripper comprising:
3 a bracket presenting a longitudinal axis, and defining a hollow interior space and opposed,
4 open ends;
5 a biasing member for permitting movement of the bracket between a first, retracted
6 position and a second extended position, and for biasing the bracket toward the
7 retracted position, the biasing member including an integral cantilevered spring and
8 support coupled with the bracket; and
9 a pair of cleaning bars each having proximal and distal ends, the proximal ends of the bars
10 being telescopically received within the open each ends of the bracket for selective

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11 movement of the bars along the longitudinal axis of the bracket between a narrow
12 position and a wide position; and
13 wherein the bracket and the pair of cleaning bars are formed from a unitary structure, and
14 the distal ends of the pair of cleaning bars including a plurality of break away tabs as
15 an adjustment means for adjusting the width of the pair of cleaning bars.

1 20. (canceled)